

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06726 041011Z

21/14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 CU-04 /146 W

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P R 040910Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 408

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6726

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT SNU STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

REF SEOUL 6671

1. A SECOND ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION BY SNU STUDENTS TOOK PLACE OCT 4. 200 STUDENTS HELD DEMONSTRATION ON SNU LAW SCHOOL CAMPUS SHOUTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT -- ANTI-ROK CIA SLOGANS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN OCT 2 DEMONSTRATION (REFTEL). THIS DEMONSTRATION WAS BROKEN UP BY POLICE, AND ACCORDING TO POLICE SOURCE, APPROXIMATELY 30 OF THE DEMONSTRATORS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. THERE IS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THERE WAS SMALL DEMONSTRATION AT SNU COMMERCIAL COLLEGE AT A SEPARATE LOCATION WHICH WAS DISPERSED BY FACULTY.

2. ACCORDING OUR LATEST INFORMATION, SOME 175 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN KEPT IN POLICE CUSTODY SINCE FIRST SNU DEMONSTRATION ON OCT 2. ONE HIGH POLICE SOURCE HAS INDICATED MOST OF THESE STUDENTS WILL BE RELEASED SOMETIME AFTERNOON OCT 4. HE INDICATED THAT 10-12 WILL PROBABLY BE HELD. ANOTHER SOURCE
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06726 041011Z

SAID AS MANY AS 24 MAY BE INDICTED, ANOTHER 72

HANDLED IN SUMMARY COURTS, AND THE REST RELEASED.
VARIOUS UNIVERSITY SOURCES INDICATE THAT POLICE ARE
SEARCHING FOR

SEVERAL SNU STUDENT LEADERS WHO HAVE
APPARENTLY GONE INTO HIDING. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF
OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS.

3. COMMENT: NEITHER POLICE NOR ACADEMIC SOURCES
HAVE ANY CLEAR INDICATION AS TO WHETHER THE SNU
STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS TO DATE MARKED THE BEGINNING
OF A PERIOD OF PLANNED INCREASES STUDENT ACTIVISM.
ONE BLUE HOUSE SOURCE HAS INDICATED THERE WILL
PROBABLY BE OTHER SMALL SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT
PROFESSED TO BE UNWORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION ON
THE CAMPUSES.

4. ACADEMIC SOURCES WE HAVE TALKED TO FRANKLY
ADMIT THAT THEY HAD NO ADVANCE WARNING OF SNU
DEMONSTRATIONS HELD TO DATE, NOR ANY CLEAR INDICATION
AS TO WHETHER THERE WILL BE MORE. HOWEVER, PAST
PATTERN HAS BEEN THAT INITIAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF
THE TYPE WE HAVE HAD SO FAR DO STIMULATE FURTHER
STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES.
ACADEMIC SOURCES RECOGNIZE BASIS OF DEMONSTRATIONS LIES
IN STUDENT DISSATISFACTION WITH HEAVY HAND OF
GOVERNMENT. NUMBER OF STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARE
SMALL, BUT THEY ARE ESPOUSING THEMES WHICH
REFLECT WIDER STUDENT AND INTELLECTUAL ATTITUDES.

5. FOR ITS PART, GOVERNMENT IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON
SNU ACADEMIC HIERARCHY, AND PRESUMABLY OTHER
UNIVERSITIES, TO CONTROL STUDENTS. THEY HAVE SO
FAR FORBIDDEN ANY LOCAL NEWS MEDIA REPORTING ON
INCIDENTS, BUT WORD OF EVENTS HAS SPREAD IN
SEOUL.
HABIB

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